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JAN 09 2007

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The changes to currently amended claims are shown using strikethrough to identify deleted material and underlining to identify added material.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An analyzer comprising:
a sample preparing portion configured for preparing an assay sample, wherein the assay sample comprises ~~at least one~~ a reagent and a whole blood specimen, wherein the reagent comprises carrier particles sensitized with an antibody or an antigen against a target substance in the blood specimen;
a light source for irradiating the assay sample;
a light detector for detecting optical information from ~~a particle in~~ the assay sample; and
an analyzing portion where blood cell counting and detection of ~~a~~ the target substance to be immunoassayed are carried out based on the optical information detected by the light detector.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 1, wherein the assay sample further comprises a second reagent-comprises comprising a fluorescent dye for staining blood cells.
5. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim-~~3~~ 1, wherein optical information detected from the carrier particles is different than optical information detected from blood cells.
6. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim-~~3~~ 1, wherein the analyzing portion differentiates the carrier particles and blood cells based on a

difference between optical information detected from the carrier particles and optical information detected from the blood cells.

7. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 1, wherein the analyzing portion differentiates blood cells into erythrocytes, leukocytes and platelets, and wherein the analyzing portion counts the differentiated blood cells.

8. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the analyzing portion obtains a degree of agglutination of the carrier particles based on optical information detected from the carrier particles, thereby enabling detection of the substance to be immunoassayed.

9. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 1, wherein the analyzing portion corrects ~~an~~ a whole blood immunoassay result to a serum or plasma immunoassay result based on a result of blood cell counting.

10. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 9, wherein the analyzing portion obtains a hematocrit value based on size information of blood cells and corrects the whole blood immunoassay result using the hematocrit value.

11. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 1, wherein the optical information is scattered light from ~~the particle in~~ the assay sample.

12. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 1, wherein the optical information is fluorescence from ~~the particle in~~ the assay sample.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An analyzer comprising:
a sample preparing portion, which is configured for preparing ~~a~~ an immunoassay sample for an immunoassay by adding a first reagent for the immunoassay to ~~one of~~ at

~~least two split blood specimens~~ a first specimen split from a whole blood specimen, and for preparing a counting sample for blood cell counting by adding a second reagent for the blood cell counting to ~~another of the at least two split blood specimens~~ a second specimen split from the whole blood specimen, wherein the first reagent comprises carrier particles sensitized with an antibody or an antigen against a target substance in the whole blood specimen, and the second reagent comprises a fluorescent dye for staining blood cells;

a light source for irradiating the immunoassay sample ~~for immunoassay~~ and the counting sample ~~for blood cell counting~~;

a light detector for detecting optical information from ~~a particle in each of the~~ immunoassay sample ~~for immunoassay~~ and the counting sample ~~for blood cell counting~~; and

an analyzing portion, wherein a substance to be immunoassayed is detected based on the optical information detected from the ~~particle in the~~ immunoassay sample ~~for immunoassay~~, and wherein the blood cell counting is performed based on the optical information detected from the ~~particle in the~~ counting sample ~~for blood cell counting~~.

15-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein optical information detected from the carrier particles is different than optical information detected from blood cells.

19. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein the analyzing portion differentiates the carrier particles and blood cells based on a difference between optical information detected from the carrier particles and optical information detected from the blood cells.

20. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 14, wherein the analyzing portion differentiates blood cells into erythrocytes, leukocytes and platelets, and wherein the analyzing portion counts the differentiated blood cells.

21. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein the analyzing portion obtains a degree of agglutination of the carrier particles based on optical information detected from the carrier particles, thereby enabling detection of the substance to be immunoassayed.

22. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 14, wherein the analyzing portion corrects ~~an~~ a whole blood immunoassay result to a serum or plasma immunoassay result based on a result of blood cell counting.

23. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 22, wherein the analyzing portion obtains a hematocrit value based on size information of blood cells and corrects the whole blood immunoassay result using the hematocrit value.

24. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 14, wherein the optical information is scattered light from the ~~particle in the~~ immunoassay sample ~~for immunoassay.~~

25. (currently amended) The blood analyzer of claim 14, wherein the optical information is fluorescence from the ~~particle in the~~ immunoassay sample ~~for immunoassay.~~

26-32. (canceled)